

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 4, 2007*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures on September 25. If I were present for rollcall votes, I would have voted "yea" on each of the following bills:

Roll 895, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H.R. 1400, To enhance United States diplomatic efforts with respect to Iran by imposing additional economic sanctions against Iran, and for other purposes.

Roll 896, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Res. 584: Supporting the goals and ideals of "National Life Insurance Awareness Month."

Roll 897, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Con. Res. 210: Supporting the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month.

Roll 898, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Res. 663: Supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day.

Roll 899, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Res. 548: Expressing the ongoing concern of the House of Representatives for Lebanon's democratic institutions and unwavering support for the administration of justice upon those responsible for the assassination of Lebanese public figures opposing Syrian control of Lebanon.

Roll 900, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Res. 642: Expressing sympathy to and support for the people and governments of the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico which have suffered from Hurricanes Felix, Dean, and Henriette and whose complete economic and fatality toll are still unknown.

Roll 901, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Res. 557: Strongly condemning the United Nations Human Rights Council for ignoring severe human rights abuses in various countries, while choosing to unfairly target Israel by including it as the only country permanently placed on the Council's agenda.

Roll 902, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Table the Motion to Appeal the Ruling of the Chair.

Roll 903, September 25, 2007: On Ordering the Previous Question. H. Res. 675—Rule providing for consideration of the SCHIP bill.

Roll 904, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Res. 675—Rule providing for consideration of the SCHIP bill.

Roll 905, September 25, 2007: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution. H. Res. 95—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives supporting the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month, and for other purposes.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT  
ROBERT J. FLOOD**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 4, 2007*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Robert J. Flood, a fallen WWII veteran whose remains have finally been returned home to Chambersburg, PA. Robert Flood was killed in Germany in July 1944, when his plane was lost during a bombing raid on an aircraft factory in Bernburg. For 63 years, Robert Flood and his crew were unaccounted for.

Flood was only 22 years old at the time of his death. Prior to his service in WWII as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps, Sgt. Flood was employed at the Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Franklin County PA; a facility that remains active today in support of our current war against Al-Qaeda.

Sgt. Flood was injured in England in 1944 when his plane crash landed after running out of fuel. After recovering from his injuries he was assigned to another bomber, which was lost during the air raid in Germany. The fate and final resting place of Sgt. Flood and his crew remained unknown until 4 years ago when pieces of his plane and the remains of its crew were discovered in a field in Germany. Thankfully, through DNA testing, the identities of the crew were finally revealed, allowing Sgt. Flood to return home.

Robert Flood's name is engraved on the Wall of the Missing at the American Cemetery in Belgium. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart with a Presidential Accolade in 1945. Sgt. Robert Flood is survived by one brother and several nieces and nephews. His return home brings comfort and relief to his family, who went years without information about his death. Madam Speaker, Robert Flood dedicated his life to serving his country. His homecoming is a solemn reminder of the sacrifices our soldiers make in service to our Nation. Our thoughts are with his family, his fellow WWII veterans, and members of his community. Another soldier has been brought home.

HONORING BRANDON THORSEN OF  
TRENTON, FLORIDA**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 4, 2007*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who gave his life in service to our Nation.

Army PFC Brandon T. Thorsen of Trenton, Florida, was killed by a gunshot while serving on guard duty in Baghdad, Iraq. Private First Class Thorsen is survived by his mother Susan Hostutler of New York, father Donald Thorsen of Trenton, Florida, sisters Sharony Sheldon of Spring Hill, Florida, and Amber Gay of Trenton, Florida, brother Dereck Hardyman of Gainesville, Florida, and his fiancée, Chana Gilbert of Newberry, Florida.

Growing up in Levy County, Brandon attended Chiefland High School, where he was

remembered as an outgoing and charming young man with a great sense of humor. A defensive lineman and left tackle on the football team, Brandon played an important role in the team's success during the 2003 season. A lover of the outdoors, hunting and fishing, Brandon had plans to join the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a game warden following his 4-year commitment to the Army.

Graduating Chiefland High School in 2005, Brandon fulfilled his ambition to serve the United States military when he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry 2nd Battalion following his enlistment. Inspired by the events of September 11, Brandon completed basic training at Ft. Benning in Georgia, and then went to Ft. Bliss in Texas for his combat infantry training prior to his service in Baghdad that began in November 2006.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like PFC Brandon Thorsen who have volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear. While brave men and women like Brandon have perished in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 4, 2007*

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Aquinas High School in Augusta, Georgia. For the last 50 years Aquinas High School has taught moral and ethical standards, skills for living and self esteem, and a Christian integration of spirit, mind, and body in each of its students. As a proud graduate of Aquinas I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the school on its 50th Anniversary and mention how this great institution has affected my life.

After graduating, I thought it would be Aquinas' strong academic curriculum that would be most beneficial towards my future aspirations. However, I must admit that I was wrong. While the strenuous academics at Aquinas laid the foundation that prepared me for success at Georgia Tech and The Medical College of Georgia, it was the faith and ethical standards taught at Aquinas that truly prepared me for life's struggles.

While opening and running my medical practice the respect for life taught at Aquinas led me to value and care for life at all stages, from conception on. Now that I have left my medical career to serve as a Member of Congress I find my lessons from Aquinas more valuable than ever. On a daily basis I am confronted by difficult questions that affect millions of lives. If it were not for the moral standards and faith in God taught at Aquinas, I do not believe that I could fully represent the people of Georgia's 11th District.

Knowing the positive impact that Aquinas High School has had on my life as well as thousands of others, I stand today to thank Aquinas for its work over the last 50 years and wish it continued success in the next 50 years.